

**Environmental Report**  
**August 2021**  
**Environmental Manager Teresa Sidwell**

**ERADICATION**

During August our CDL licensed Sr. Environmental Officer Tim Filbeck and I used the grapple truck to remove waste illegally dumped on the side of county roads outside the city limits of Lowell, Rogers and Garfield. We removed 4 mattresses, construction waste, 2 large bags of household waste and 75 tires. It takes two staff members to clean up roadside dump sites with the grapple truck. Training, awareness of surroundings, PPE, and equipment inspections are all important to avoid hazards and to safely operate this heavy piece of equipment.





## Pick Up Where You Play

Our division will be participating in this event once again. It is a great way to serve the community and enjoy the great outdoors! We encourage you to put these dates on your calendar and join us in picking up litter in the Prairie Creek area from 9:00 am until noon.

**\*Sunday, September 19 - Old Prairie Creek Road boat launch area**

**\*Sunday, October 3 - Hwy 12 bridge parking area**

**\*Sunday, October 17 - Prairie Creek Park swim area**

***One lucky registered volunteer will win a fishing trip for 2 on Beaver Lake!***



**The County Teaching Garden** is still bursting with color (pictured below). We use the garden to educate the public about alternative stormwater management using native plants. Stop by for a visit any time at the Benton County Road Department located on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Bentonville.



**Staff Learning & Development** – Environmental law enforcement officers must be prepared for anything and capable of making sound decisions. To effectively serve the public, our officers continue to learn and develop their skills. With ongoing officer training, we will continue to serve the community at the highest level possible. All staff received 4 hours of firearms instruction and one hour of law review in August. Officers Filbeck and Spry received 4.5 hours of drone flight practice.

The **Special Waste Drop-off** is provided by Benton County, the Cities and the Benton County Solid Waste District for recycling and disposal of large household items and household hazardous waste. Limited household items accepted free or for low cost.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

SMALL CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON OUR PLANET!

Benton County 2021 Special Waste Drop-Off Collections								
CENTERTON	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	HHW	TIRES
August	794	38	62	235	992	818	135	
2020 YTD	6482	345	457	1917	6898	5507	975	1703
ROGERS	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	HHW	TIRES
August	649	31	46	185	480	630	122	
2020 YTD	3940	196	251	1147	4165	3704	771	2137
SILOAM SPRINGS	# OF LOADS	APPLIANCES NON-REFRIG	APPLIANCES REFRIG	ELECTRONICS	METAL	FURNITURE/ OVERSIZED	HHW	TIRES
August	86	8	10	70	30	41	28	
2020 YTD	504	21	43	356	243	196	175	541
<b>SITES COMBINED 2020</b>	10926	562	751	3420	11306	9407	1921	4381

NOTE: # of appliances, electronics, furniture, metal, playground equipment, and tires are based on number of items collected. HHW is based on the # of visits, not the # of items brought per visit.

2021 COUNTY EXPENSES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL LINE ITEM 3063										
2021 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Household Hazardous Waste*	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	Operations Costs	TOTALS
BUDGET	\$62,000.00	\$43,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,400.00	\$33,150.00	\$42,510.09	\$ 232,060.09
AUGUST	\$ 5,265.41	\$ 5,089.95	\$ 106.94	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 284.00	\$ -	\$ 3,112.00	\$ -	\$ 13,858.30
SPENT Y-T-D	\$ 38,068.62	\$ 30,801.14	\$ 2,323.22	\$ -	\$ 106.40	\$ 363.99	\$ 74.21	\$ 11,324.50	\$ 31,882.56	\$ 114,944.64

\*BCSWD will use up to \$30,000 of their budget for HHW before billing the County.

**Mattress Deconstruction Pilot Program** – A number of factors has slowed progression of this program but the Sheriff's inmate crews are deconstructing mattresses brought to the Special Waste Drop-Off on Brookside Road. The metal springs will be recycled and the other materials will be recycled if a market can be found. Once mattresses are deconstructed any waste going to the landfill can be easily compacted and that means fewer dumpsters and money saved.





## EDUCATION

Our division helps make our county a safe and healthy place to live by utilizing Education, Eradication, and Enforcement. We participated in the online virtual Secchi Day event this year by sharing educational videos. The first Secchi Day on Beaver Lake was launched by Beaver Water District 16 years ago to promote understanding of the importance of protecting our drinking water. Every year, teams of "CITIZEN SCIENTISTS" volunteer to gather water quality data from more than 36 sampling sites all over Beaver Lake.



### Helping Man's Best Friend

Sr. Environmental Officer Tim Filbeck was investigating a case in August and found dogs with empty water bowls during a very hot day. He contacted the County Animal Control officer and filled the dog's water bowls. Our officers carry a water tank for emergencies and mixing concrete for sign installations. As the first responder to several fires, Sr. Officer Filbeck has been able to assist local fire departments extinguish a car fire and structure fires.



## ENFORCEMENT

We have seen a substantial increase in reports of illegal dumping over the last couple of years. Each case requires at least one visit and as many as twelve site visits over the course of a year. In August we received 30 new reports of illegal waste disposal. Currently, we have 15 cases in the court system. Many properties in Benton County that have environmental violations, took years to get that way. We strive to educate violators on proper waste disposal and give them time to rectify the problem as long as they work to make significant improvement. The three illegal dump sites below were found outside the city limits of Gentry. Sr. Officer Filbeck identified the same person had dumped at two locations and ordered the violator to properly dispose of the waste. All three sites were cleaned up including the third site by Officer Filbeck.

### BEFORE:



### AFTER:



Our Officers protect water quality by patrolling areas known for illegal dumping. They remove waste weekly from the Beaver Lake area at the end of Frisco Springs Road and from the Snively Bridge area that crosses the Osage Creek (pictured below). We conducted 9 extra patrols, 3 camera installations and 1 "no dumping" sign installation during August.



**ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENSES** and actions initiated in August.

OFFENSE TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	3
Burn (electronics)	1
Burn (furniture)	2
Burn (general waste)	2
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	0
Dumped by others (appliances)	0
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	1
Dumped by others (construction debris)	2
Dumped by others (electronics)	2
Dumped by others (furniture)	3
Dumped by others (general waste)	4
Dumped by others (household garbage)	0
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	2
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	2
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by self (construction debris)	0
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	2
Dumped by self (general waste)	3
Dumped by self (household garbage)	1
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	1
Dumped by self (trees)	0
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	0
Camera Installation	3
Extra Patrol	9
Littering	1
Sign installation	1
Stagnant Water	1

ACTIONS TAKEN THIS MONTH	QTY
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	3
WARNINGS ISSUED	1
CITATIONS ISSUED	1
WARRANTS ISSUED	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	30
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES OPENED YTD	270

**What does the Environmental Division Investigate?**

Environmental Officers are limited to enforcement of solid waste violations in unincorporated Benton County and do not regulate inside any city limits.

We DO NOT investigate septic issues, structure fires, agricultural waste, dead animals such as pets or wild animals, or the illegal disposal of hazardous material.

Our division responds to violations of solid waste regulations that may include;

1. Construction or operation of a solid waste disposal facility or disposal site.
2. Dumping of solid waste upon property owned by another person.
3. Dumping of solid waste on the side of public roads or public property.
4. Solid waste on one's own property that can potentially create a public nuisance or health hazard.
5. Dumping of solid waste into a waterway.
6. Burning of solid waste.
7. Burying of solid waste.

